

Unit 1. Forest and Humans

Montado system



Legend: *sheeps grazing in a Montado system*

Source: <https://www.vidarural.pt/producao/sistema-agro-silvo-pastoril-portugues-e-patrimonio-mundial/>

Description

Montado is a multifunctional agro-silvo-pastoral ecosystem, created by Human. It is a particular ecosystem and it is even recognized by UNESCO. So, these landscapes are protected. It is typical of the Mediterranean climate, making Portugal the country with the biggest extension of this ecosystem. Since the south has high extensions of *quercus suber*, typical specie used in Montado. It creates a landscape in mosaic with perennial pastures, with low canopy cover, associated with an extensive grazing system and sometimes associating extensive farming systems with long rotations.



Agrosilvicultural landscape in a Montado system

source: herdadedofreixodoMeio.pt

Goals

The main goal is to have a multifunctional agro-silvo-pastoral ecosystem that is resilient and endures in time and with different sources of profit.



Legend: *Pigs pasturing in a Montado System*

source: <https://www.porcopretoalentejano.com/qualidade-e-prestigio/montado-alentejano.html>

Activities

This system mixes:

- Agricultural activities
- Silvicultural activities
- Pastoral activities

In a complex, integrated and multifunctional system.



Legend: *Cork collection in a Montado System*

source: <https://agriculturaemar.com/cat/agricultura/florista/sobreiro/page/3/>

Impact

- protected area
- High levels of biodiversity
- Human presence in harmony with nature
- Wildfire prevention
- Traditional uses conservation
- Climate crisis adaptation